7. There is a need to bring out more information regarding the Reserve and specifically of tigers in the public sphere. This will also underline the good work that has been observed in the Panna Tiger Reserve.

8. The involvement of local people and groups may be considered in taking constructive suggestions and building a support network around the Reserve.

9. A team of experts should visit the Park during the summer months of 2008 to evaluate the progress made on continuing management interventions and the impact of actions proposed to be taken.

Butterfly parks in Andhra Pradesh

336. SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any proposal to open the butterfly parks and gardens;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, by when such parks would come up in each State especially in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH) : (a) No Sir, There is no proposal to open butterfly parks and gardens.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Illegal mining units

337. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT & FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of mining units identified as functioning illegally in the country causing environmental and health hazards, State-wise; and

(b) whether Government is planning any steps to book such units under the existing laws?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH) : (a) Mining activities without requisite environmental safeguards are known to have adverse impacts on different components of environment including human health. Press reports have appeared from time to time reporting illegal mining in different parts of the country.

(b) The State Governments are the owners of minerals and since the minerals rights and collection of revenue and matters related to police, law and order machinery vest with State Governments, the State Governments have been empowered under Section 23C of Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) (MMDR) Act, 1957 to frame Rules for prevention of illegal

mining and to take action. As informed by Ministry of Mines the Central Government is not empowered under MMDR Act to book any illegal miner for offence. However, whenever the Central Government has received complaint of illegal mining, these are enquired into by Indian Bureau of Mines and the concerned State Governments are requested to take stringent action.

Forest Cover

338. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the forest cover which were making valuable contributions to the national ecosystem, State-wise;

(b) the comparative details of the forest cover during the last five years, State-wise; and

(c) the steps being taken to improve the forest cover in each State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH) : (a) The State-wise details of forest cover is given in the Statement-I (See below).

(b) The details of forest cover (State-wise) from 2001 to 2005 are given in the STATEMENT-II *(See* below). The latest data on - forest cover is available based upon State of Forests Report, 2005 published by Forest Survey of India (FSI), Dehradun.

(c) The steps taken to increase the forest cover under various schemes of Central and State Government include National Afforestation Programme, Integrated Forest Protection Scheme, Eco-Development Force (EDF) Scheme, Grants-in- Aid for Greening India Scheme, Gram Van Yojana (GVY) for afforestation on non forest lands, Assistance for Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries for afforestation, regeneration of degraded forests etc.

Statement-I

*Forest Cover in States/UTs in India (SFR 2005)**

(Area in km2)

State/UT	Forest cover
1	2
Andhra Pradesh	44.372
Arunachal Pradesh	67.777
Assam	27.645
Bihar	5.579
Chhattisgarh	55.863
Delhi	176